

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 14, and 15 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chiba et al. (US 5,435,435) and indicated that all the other claims (1-10, 12, 13 and 16-34) are allowable. The rejection is traversed. Claims 1-34 remain in the application.

In his rejection, the Examiner stated that Chiba et al. discloses all the limitations of claims 11, 14, and 15 in a similar device comprising a module body, outside edge structure defining an opening, attachment structure in the opening, a rod retention member retained in the opening by the attachment structure, and a flexible shank. MPEP § 2131 provides: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Contrary to the Examiner's statement that Chiba et al. discloses all the limitations, Chiba et al. does not disclose, among other things, a rod retention member that is movable from a first position at least partly blocking a first passageway to a second non-blocking position while the rod retention member is retained in an opening by attachment structure in the opening. The stop (7) of Chiba et al. disengages from the slot (6) to unblock the rod. (See Chiba et al., col. 2, ll. 62-66.) Therefore, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

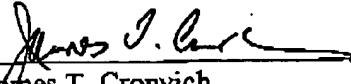
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 11 and its dependent claims 14 and 15 in view of these remarks and allowance of the application.

This amendment is being sent within three months of the Office Action so no extension of time petition fee should be due. Authorization to charge any fees deemed necessary for consideration of this response to Deposit Account No. 12-0090 is hereby given. If the Examiner thinks a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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